

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE**  
**TO H.R. 23**  
**OFFERED BY MR. FILNER OF CALIFORNIA**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Belated Thank You  
3 to the Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007”.

**4 SEC. 2. PAYMENTS TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED DURING**  
**5                   WORLD WAR II IN THE UNITED STATES MER-**  
**6                   CHANT MARINE.**

7       (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMPENSATION FUND.—  
8 Subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 38, United States Code,  
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:  
10 **“§ 532. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund**

11       “(a) COMPENSATION FUND.—(1) There is in the gen-  
12 eral fund of the Treasury a fund to be known as the ‘Mer-  
13 chant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund’ (in this sec-  
14 tion referred to as the ‘compensation fund’).

15       “(2) Subject to the availability of appropriations for  
16 such purpose, amounts in the fund shall be available to  
17 the Secretary without fiscal year limitation to make pay-

1 ments to eligible individuals in accordance with this sec-  
2 tion.

3 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—(1) An eligible indi-  
4 vidual is an individual who—

5 “(A) before October 1, 2009, submits to the  
6 Secretary an application containing such information  
7 and assurances as the Secretary may require;

8 “(B) has not received benefits under the Serv-  
9 icemen’s Readjustment Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-  
10 346); and

11 “(C) has engaged in qualified service.

12 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), a person has en-  
13 gaged in qualified service if, between December 7, 1941,  
14 and December 31, 1946, the person—

15 “(A) was a member of the United States mer-  
16 chant marine (including the Army Transport Service  
17 and the Naval Transport Service) serving as a crew-  
18 member of a vessel that was—

19 “(i) operated by the War Shipping Admin-  
20 istration or the Office of Defense Transpor-  
21 tation (or an agent of the Administration or Of-  
22 fice);

23 “(ii) operated in waters other than inland  
24 waters, the Great Lakes, and other lakes, bays,  
25 and harbors of the United States;

1                   “(iii) under contract or charter to, or prop-  
2                   erty of, the Government of the United States;  
3                   and

4                   “(iv) serving the Armed Forces; and

5                   “(B) while so serving, was licensed or otherwise  
6                   documented for service as a crewmember of such a  
7                   vessel by an officer or employee of the United States  
8                   authorized to license or document the person for  
9                   such service.

10                  “(c) AMOUNT OF PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall  
11                  make a monthly payment out of the compensation fund  
12                  in the amount of \$1,000 to an eligible individual. The Sec-  
13                  retary shall make such payments to eligible individuals in  
14                  the order in which the Secretary receives the applications  
15                  of the eligible individuals.

16                  “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—(1)  
17                  There are authorized to be appropriated to the compensa-  
18                  tion fund amounts as follows:

19                         “(A) For fiscal year 2008, \$120,000,000.

20                         “(B) For fiscal year 2009, \$108,000,000.

21                         “(C) For fiscal year 2010, \$97,000,000.

22                         “(D) For fiscal year 2011, \$85,000,000.

23                         “(E) For fiscal year 2012, \$75,000,000.

24                  “(2) Funds appropriated to carry out this section  
25                  shall remain available until expended.

1       “(e) REPORTS.—The Secretary shall include, in docu-  
2       ments submitted to Congress by the Secretary in support  
3       of the President’s budget for each fiscal year, detailed in-  
4       formation on the operation of the compensation fund, in-  
5       cluding the number of applicants, the number of eligible  
6       individuals receiving benefits, the amounts paid out of the  
7       compensation fund, the administration of the compensa-  
8       tion fund, and an estimate of the amounts necessary to  
9       fully fund the compensation fund for that fiscal year and  
10      each of the three subsequent fiscal years.

11      “(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall prescribe  
12      regulations to carry out this section.”.

13      (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after  
14      the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
15      prescribe the regulations required under section 532(f) of  
16      title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

17      (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections  
18      at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting  
19      after the item related to section 531 the following new  
20      item:

“532. Merchant Mariner Equity Compensation Fund.”.

Amend the title so as to read: “To amend title 38,  
United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans  
Affairs to establish the Merchant Mariner Equity Com-  
pensation Fund to provide benefits to certain individuals

who served in the United States merchant marine (including the Army Transport Service and the Naval Transport Service) during World War II.”